

The way I see it:

I am paying for this service in its entirety, meaning, supporting their entire programming line-up regardless of threats toward local radio stations.

I benefit from the XM Instant Traffic and Weather channels. There are more than a few local radio stations in my area who play traffic and weather every 10 minutes, however, they are not nearly as prompt as the XM channels. Most of these local stations cut their live traffic and weather coverage during the evening hours and do not begin again until the morning rush.

I am in my car for a majority of the day. It's nice to have a station that, no matter what time of day it is, I can get up-to-the-moment traffic and weather information without hearing stale forecasts or traffic reports that have been pre-recorded over three hours prior.

For those of us who work graveyard shifts or are night owls, these stations are prime listening. People like the NAB don't consider the fact that the world does continue to function long after they return home from a 9-5 shift. Most normal citizens ignore the fact that, while they sleep, people are making sure that their electricity, water, gas, and other necessities are still working properly. They are oblivious to the fact that this service might benefit those of us who live during the night and early morning hours.

Also, being bombarded by 10 minutes of fluff and commercials while I wait for a local station to make their way around to the traffic report does not help me. By the time they make it through to the traffic, I'm already stuck in it and can do nothing to avoid it.

The same goes for weather. If there is a high chance of rain, I'd rather hear about it right away before I continue on any outdoor plans. If temperatures are not kosher with planned activities for the day, I would like to know as soon as possible, not listen to the broadcasters drone on, passing commercial after commercial before they get to the only thing I really care about.

It would also be a great infringement of first amendment rights to take these stations away. Anyone and everyone has the right to report happenings that concern the general public. That privilage should not be solely related to "news-worthy" events. Freedom of Speech is just that. If I feel like creating a radio station and broadcasting myself counting to a million every day, I have that right. Why should these stations be any different?

In conclulsion, XM is, in the end, a paid service. Those of us who pay for the privilage of listening to their more-than-brilliant programming have a right to a station on the satellite dial that reports, if only slightly, about local events.

Those out there who don't pay for XM will continue to listen to local stations for all their information. Those of us who have XM will still switch back over to local AM/FM bands to recieve more in-depth local information. I don't believe that this service or any other offered by XM should be considered any sort of threat to the FCC or local stations. As long as the AM and FM bands are free-to-all, there will be listeners, and they will be in no short supply.

Thank you for your time,
-Justin P. Bidula